

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 SEOUL 04420 250836Z

ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11

HA-05 IO-13 EB-08 TRSE-00 COME-00 /092 W

-----110539 250843Z /20

P R 250814Z MAY 78

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1289

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 4420

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, KS

SUBJ: COUNCIL OF CHURCHES LETTER TO PRESIDENT CARTER

1. ON MAY 25 MR YI KYONG-PAE (RHEE KYOUNG BAE), DIRECTOR, HUMAN RIGHTS CMTE, KOREAN NATIONAL COUNCIL OF CHURCHES (KNCC), DELIVERED TO EMBASSY A LETTER FROM KNCC SECRETARY GENERAL KIM KWAN SUK TO PRESIDENT CARTER, CONVEYING A COMPILATION OF DOCUMENTS ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND OVERALL POLITICAL SITUATION IN KOREA.

2. GIST OF LETTER (ORIGINAL BEING CARRIED TO WASHINGTON BY MR GLEYSTEN) IS THAT HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN KOREA IS FAR WORSE THAN PUBLIC REPORTING NOW INDICATES. LETTER WARNS ROKG REPRESSION "IS REACHING A DANGEROUS POINT," AND "WITHOUT IMPROVEMENT THERE IS BOUND TO BE A SERIOUS SOCIAL CRISIS". LETTER VOICES DISAPPOINTMENT OVER US SUPPORT FOR ROKG WITHOUT SUFFICIENT US CONCERN FOR HUMAN RIGHTS IN ROK, ADDING USG "SHARES RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN KOREA". LETTER ALSO (A) CALLS ON USG TO "FREQUENTLY AND FORTHRIGHTLY" EXPRESS ITS VIEW ON
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HUMAN RIGHTS; (B) ESPRESSES DEEP CONCERN THAT "INTERNATIONAL ISOLATION" OF SOUTH KOREAN REGIME WILL REPEAT THE EXPERIENCE OF SOUTH VIETNAM; (C) CALLS ON US TO SHARE RESPONSIBILITY FOR IMPROVING "ECONOMIC JUSTICE" AND PROTECTING WORKERS' RIGHTS; AND (D) URGES RETURN TO DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENT IN ORDER TO AVOID "POLITICAL CHAOS".

3. ATTACHED DOCUMENTS INCLUDE LIST OF OVER 200 INDIVIDUALS WHOM KNCC CLASSIFIES AS POLITICAL PRISONERS, REPORT ON KNCC STATEMENTS CRITICIZING MAY 18 NATIONAL UNIFICATION COUNCIL ELECTION AND ON MAY 18 BALLOT BURNING BY DISSIDENTS (INCLUDING MRS YUN PO-SON AND HAM SOK-HON), AND CHRONOLOGY OF OTHER RECENT DISSIDENT ACTIVITIES.

4. LETTER IS MARKED CONFIDENTIAL, AND IN PRESENTING IT MR YI ASKED FOR ASSURANCES THAT US WOULD ALSO MAINTAIN ITS PRIVATE STATUS, WHILE STRESSING THAT KNCC ALSO PLANS TO KEEP IT CONFIDENTIAL. EMBASSY OFFICER AGREED THAT WE WOULD RESPECT THIS CONFIDENCE.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: HUMAN RIGHTS, DIPLOMATIC COMMUNICATIONS, POLITICAL SITUATION, CHURCH STATE RELATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 25 may 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978SEOUL04420
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780220-0935
Format: TEL
From: SEOUL
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780519/aaaaapon.tel
Line Count: 76
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: c5afba96-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 17 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2567540
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: COUNCIL OF CHURCHES LETTER TO PRESIDENT CARTER
TAGS: PINS, KS, (CARTER, JIMMY), (KIM KWAN SUK)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/c5afba96-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014